

THE
Second Report
OF THE
SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION SOCIETY
OF CANADA,

FOR SUPPLYING SUNDAY SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THESE
PROVINCES WITH SUITABLE BOOKS.

WITH HINTS AND RULES FOR THE FORMA-
TION OF BRANCH SOCIETIES AND
SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

MONTREAL,
PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY, BY E. V. SPARNAWA,
JANUARY,
1824.

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ERRATA.

Page 5th, 3th line from bottom, for "this object" read *Schools*.

Page 9—6th line from bottom, for "hearts" read *wants*,

Page 10—9th line from bottom, for "by" read *to*.

Page 11—5th line from bottom, for "exhibiting" read *excepting*.

Page 14—top line, for "number" read *amount*.

Page 14—9th line from bottom, for "livening" read *living*.

Page 16—for "Secretary" read *Treasurer*.

AT the Annual Meeting of the SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION
SOCIETY OF CANADA, held in the Methodist Chapel,
Montreal, 1824,

The Rev. J. KNOWLAND, in the Chair.

After the report of the Committee had been read, the
following resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

First That the Report now read, be received and
printed under the direction of the committee.

Second. That the thanks of this Meeting be given to
the President, Treasurer, Secretary and Committee,
for their services during the past year, and that the fol-
lowing persons be elected to serve for the ensuing year.

COMMITTEE.

REV. J. KNOWLAND,	MR. DANIEL FISHER,
MR. SAMUEL HEDGE,	MR. MICHAEL SCOTT,
MR. J. T. BARRETT,	MR. D. CAMERON,
MR. JOHN FROTHINGHAM,	MR. A. FESSENDEN,
MR. GEORGE SAVAGE,	MR. J. HILTON,
MR. JAMES FLEMING,	MR. F. HEDGE.

TREASURER,

MR. WILLIAM LUNN.

SECRETARY,

MR. WILLIAM HEDGE.

Third, That the thanks of this Meeting be given to
the Ministers and Agents, for their unwearied exertions
in behalf of this Society.

Fourth, That the thanks of this Meeting be given to
the Superintendants and Teachers of Sunday Schools,
for their laudable endeavours in the promotion of rel.

gious education in these Provinces; and that they be requested to forward to this Society, Annual Reports of their several schools, previous to the 31st December.

Fifth, That the thanks of this meeting be presented to the Ladies composing the Dorcas Society of Montreal, for their benevolent exertions in clothing poor Sunday School Children—and that this meeting fervently recommend the formation of Dorcas Societies throughout the country wherever practicable.

Sixth, That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Rev. J. Knowland, for his able conduct in the chair.

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REPORT.

IN presenting the Second Report of the *Sunday School Union Society of Canada*, your Committee would fain express their acknowledgment of the goodness and forbearance of Him, who swayeth the Sceptre of the Universe, that he has seen fit, thus far, to encourage their humble efforts; and they would fervently pray, that the same Almighty Power would guide, protect and encourage them to a continued perseverance in that line of duty, which shall most redound to his own glory. The past year has afforded abundant testimony of the importance of this society, and of the necessity of establishing similar institutions throughout the Province, in connection with this. As in the animal economy, the head is of little service without the limbs, and the other parts, which constitute a whole—so, in this institution, it must have its Auxiliaries and Branches, to render it fully adequate to the object of its establishment. We cannot, indeed, expect to bring the operations of Sunday Schools to any degree of perfection, until we have our Branch Unions throughout the country. For the accomplishment of of this important object, as well as the establishment of this object your Committee have deemed it advisable to appoint the Rev. Thaddeus Osgood their Agent; and from the known abilities and zeal of this gentleman, in every thing appertaining to Sunday Schools, we have reasonable grounds to hope, that he will materially advance the interests of this Society.

It gives your Committee much pleasure to state, that the funds of this Society are in prosperous circumstan-

ces, as will be seen by a reference to the Report of the Treasurer, in a subsequent page.

Your Committee learning the destitute situation of many places with regard to Sunday Schools, commissioned Mr. Gibbon Williams, (who kindly offered his services for this purpose) in the latter part of Aug last, to visit such places in the southern part of this province, and in the Eastern Townships; and if possible, to establish schools wherever required. The result of this visit was highly satisfactory. Mr. Williams established a number of schools, and revived others that were falling away, by promising immediate assistance from this Society; which was promptly afforded, on Mr. Williams' return. The following was the route and the result of his exertions. Sherrington was first visited, where a school had, a short time previously, been established; but was labouring under much difficulty for want of funds—your Committee made it a grant in books, to the amount of five shillings—Burtonville was next visited where a school was revived & a donation made to it by your Committee, of ten shillings in books—Mr. Williams passed thence to La Colle, where he found a school in a languishing state, to which your Committee made a grant of books to the amount of ten shillings. In Odell-Town, two schools were found to be in existence; but suffering alike with others, for want of funds—a grant was made to each in books, to the amount of ten shillings. Mr. Williams next visited Caldwell's Manor and Henrysville, without finding a school, or being able to form one, in either place—yet your Committee entertain the hope, that their exertions will not prove ineffectual in establishing schools in both these places, during the coming season—At the village of St. Armands, a school was in existence, but in a state of much depression, which received the assistance of your Committee, in books, to the amount of five shillings. Two schools were next visited at Stanstead, which appeared in peculiar need of assistance—the amount of ten shillings in books, were granted to each. At Hatley, two schools were formed, and a donation made to each of ten shil-

lings, in books. At Baruston, were revived two schools, and books, to the amount of ten shillings, granted to each. At Stanbridge Mills, a school was formed, and a grant of five shillings in books, made to it. Sutton and Schoolscroft were next successively visited—a school was revived in both places, and a grant made to each, of five shillings, in books. Here terminated the labours of Mr. Williams. It will undoubtedly have been perceived by you, by this very rapid sketch, that not a school was visited, which was not materially suffering for want of funds; and there was every indication with many, that they would entirely fall away, without some assistance; and your Committee are happy to state, that the limited aid, which the circumscribed means of this Society allowed them to afford, has been productive of much good. From information since received, many of these schools have given proofs, that the assistance rendered them has not been in vain. The Rev. Mr. Booth, a Wesleyan Minister, under date of October 6 ult. reports three schools in his Circuit—Two in Odletown—the first of which, was established in July last, containing upwards of forty scholars, thirty of whom, had recited 3492 verses of Scripture—the other was formed in the latter part of August last, and consists of thirty five scholars, who had recited 1037 verses of Scripture.—The third is in Burtonville, and consists of upwards of thirty scholars. The Revd. Mr. Booth writes, that in his Circuit, “Sunday Schools are much wanted in many places; but the great difficulty is, to obtain suitable persons to manage them, and friends to supply them with books. I hope however, the time is not far distant, when the people will be able to appreciate them more than at present; and that they will exert themselves in leading the infant mind to the word of God, both as a guide in life, and a source of instruction and comfort: and I feel confident, the measures your institution has adopted, will ultimately be efficient to inspire that interest in the minds of others, which is the prime object of your benevolent exertions. No doubt but thousands of poor children, in the great day of ac-

counts, will have cause to bless God, for your pious endeavours to establish Sunday Schools in the Canadas"—What more powerful stimulus do we require, for a continued perseverance in our exertions, than the knowledge of the perishing state of thousands of children throughout the Lower Province, for the want of that Spiritual food, which is so abundantly afforded by Sunday Schools; and the fact, that we may be the humble instruments, through God, of redeeming many of these children from their Spiritual bondage; and that at some distant period, in surronuding the Throne of the most High, the means of their redemption from the powers of Satan, while pilgrims here, will not be forgotten, A Sabbath School was established at Isle Aux Noix, in November 1822; and from a Report rendered for the first six months, we have the pleasing assurance of its prosperity. It consists of thirty four scholars, who had committed to memory, during the above mentioned period, more than ten thousand verses of Scripture; and from accounts since received from it, we learn, that the same spirit of laudable emulation, appears to exist among the scholars, and an unremitting exertion on the part of the Superintendant and Teachers.—The Revd. Mr. DePutron, a Wesleyan Minister, has rendered the following Report, (under date of November 8th ult.) of six Schools in his Circuit.—Two at Stanbridge—the one containing thirty seven children, the other twenty four, who had exhibited laudable proofs of their engagedness to learn the will of their Heavenly Master—one at Stanbridge Mills, that promises to become beneficial—one at Dunham containing fifty Scholars, under flattering prospects—and two in the township of St. Armands—one consists of twenty four children, exhibiting encouraging proofs of their progress—the other, which is established in the Village, consisting at the present time, of fifty five scholars, as stated in the Report subsequently rendered by the Superintendant. This is now, one of the most flourishing Schools in that Section of the Country.—During the last three months terminating in December, 38 of the children had committed to memo-

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ry more than 8000 verses—making in the whole recited by the six Schools during the past season, more than twenty five thousand verses of Scripture, independent of recitations which may have been made from Catechisms. May that same Great Being, who brought these little children into existence, who has 'nourished, and clothed, and protected them thus far, give efficacy to his word, which they have been taught to repeat, and treasure up; and may the same redeeming influence be shed around every Sunday School scholar in this Province and throughout the world. From the Report received from the Superintendant and Teachers of West Hatley Sunday School, for one quarter ending in December 7th ult. we learn that it contains twenty six Scholars, who have committed to memory during the above period, 7591 verses of Scripture. In this School we observe with much pleasure, are five French children, who attend to acquire the first rudiments of instruction, that they may have it in their power to examine for themselves, the great volume of inspiration, and learn from its sacred pages, the object of their creation and preservation. Two French children attend the School at the Village of St. Armands. It is a fact of undeniable import, that as long as gross ignorance prevails, but little advance can be made in the knowledge of God, of our duty, and of the precious things of eternity. The mind must be freed from those shackles, which bind it down to the very dregs of this earth, which conceal from it the beauties of creation and the wondrous workings of divine power, which blind it to every thing of an ennobling nature, and allows it to revel only in the depraved joys of our grosser senses. We should hail with feelings of peculiar gratitude, every opportunity, which is afforded us of extending our usefulness, and particularly among those, whose hearts are great, but whose means are extremely limited. A Sunday School was commenced in Brome in September 1822, and from a Report received in September last, we learn that it contains forty scholars, who had committed to memory more than 4000 verses of Scripture the preceding six months.—

Parents as well as children, the Committee write, are participating in the benefits of this School; many are stated to attend "not only to hear the children read and recite, but to read themselves, and to join in prayer and praise to Almighty God." And "it is gratifying," the Committee add, "to observe since the establishment of our Sunday School, how few people are to be seen wandering about in the streets and roads on the Lord's day, to what was formerly the case. During the past year one has been added to the number of Schools previously established at Quebec; but as no report has been received from there, we cannot state the present situation of the Schools in that place.

We feel it incumbent upon us to make some remarks upon the School established among the *Abenakis*—a Tribe of Indians settled at the mouth of St Francis River, numbering about four hundred souls. It is taught by an aged Indian, who was educated at Dartmouth College in the State of Newhampshire. Though a common week School and devoted to the objects of such Institutions, it possesses many claims upon public attention. It affords the singular exhibition (with us) of one of the "Sons of the Forest," possessing the qualifications of an Instructor in the English Language, and manifesting an ardent desire to impart of the knowledge, which he possesses, to the children of his own tribe, by establishing a school among them, and becoming their Teacher, thus causing an exchange of the bow, and the arrow, for the more important objects of civilization and refinement. The School at present consists of nineteen scholars, who attend constantly, and from the specimens exhibited by your Committee of their penmanship, we are led to entertain pleasing hopes of its usefulness. The Montreal Bible Society has made to it a donation of eleven Bibles and four Testaments; and it has farther received from the Depository of this Society, seven dozen and a half of London School Books. In a letter to one of your Committee, the Master (T. Arnance,) writes. "The interest I feel for the instruction of our Indian children, will always lead me to do all in my

power to promote it; and I am convinced, that no reformation can be effected, without the knowledge of the *Holy Scriptures*." To Montreal we turn, as the centre of Sabbath Schools in this Province.—Here they originated, and here more powerful and vigorous exertions have been made for their extension and increase, than elsewhere. We mention this not by way of boasting, but to show the friends of the Institution here, how much is incumbent on them to do, and that a relaxation in their exertions, would be productive of very serious consequences. We should ever be emulous to do good, having in view the glory of the Creator, rather than the exaltation of the creature; and we hope it will never be said of Montreal, that it is a whit behind other places in these Provinces, in moral and religious improvement. We have much pleasure in stating, that another School has been added in this City, to the number reported last year. About three hundred children are now assembled each Sabbath to receive instruction in these schools—the present benefits already exhibited and the pleasing prospects afforded, are such as cannot but encourage to a steady perseverance in the important employment of religious instruction. We hope the time may soon arrive, when it cannot be said, that a single child of a proper age, in this city, is not a participant in the benefits of this institution. A school at the Cross has been revived, and one at the Tannery; and another organized at Lachine; all recently, through the indefatigable exertions of your agent.—Schools have been established in the following places, from which we have received no Reports. Three Rivers, Rawson, La Prairie, St. Johns, Hemingsford, Roxsarn, Melburne, Shefford, Shefford Ridge, Farnham, Granby, Chatham, St. Andrews, Hull, Hawksbury.

No Report of the Sunday Schools, in the Upper Province having been published, exhibiting the limited sketch given in the Kingston and York Newspapers, your committee requested the Rev. Mr. Osgood, a travelling Minister, and agent for Sabbath Schools in both Provinces, to furnish what information he thought suit

able to be embodied in this report—the following is in his own words—“Since I met your Society at your last anniversary, I have travelled upwards of four thousand miles, principally with a view of promoting Sabbath Schools and Bible classes, believing that through these Institutions a travelling Minister can do more than in any other way. Some attention to this would not interfere with his preaching the Gospel faithfully and frequently; for since I have travelled for the promotion of these institutions, I have usually preached, as often as six or seven times in a week, besides addressing the people upon the business of Sabbath Schools. It being a divine command to love our neighbours as ourselves, I have for the last year devoted a portion of my time and labours to the destitute parts of the neighbouring Government; believing that by establishing Sunday Schools and Bible and Tract Societies on both sides of the boundary line, there will be less need of expending property in the erection of FORTS and building of BATTLE SHIPS. And had there been one fourth of the property expended, for a century past, in promoting Moral and Religious Societies, which has been wasted in useless and unnecessary warfare, the prospect of the moral world, would have been infinitely more delightful to the eye of the Christian than it now is. I make this short digression to furnish an apology, for spending so much time, the year past, in the United States, and therefore not being able to furnish so much useful information, as I otherwise might, for your Report. But I am happy to communicate (through your Report) that I find an increasing attention to the subject of Sabbath School instruction in the parts of the Upper Provinces which I have visited. I have been up as far as Sandwich, and came down through Talbert Street and Long Point. I assembled the people in almost every Township, and after preaching and explaining the nature and design of a Sunday School, I procured a Committee to be appointed for conducting a School, and for taking the necessary steps for establishing a Juvenile Library, which I conceive essential to the per-

manent support and general utility of each school. I promised some assistance in books, out of such donations as I had received for that purpose, encouraging them to hope for a little aid from the Sunday School Union Societies, if they exerted themselves to form a Society and do what they could among themselves. I indulge the hope, that some aid in the formation of Sunday School Libraries will be furnished by the Government of the Upper Province, as a Petition is now before the Legislature for that purpose. In thirty eight different places in Canada, I have during the year past, procured such committees to be appointed; and it is probable, that in most of those places, a School and small Library will be established.

I cannot state accurately the number of schools in the Upper Province, which are now in operation. In Niagara, are two schools—one at the 12 Mile Creek—one at the 20 Mile Creek—and at the 50 Mile Creek, is a large flourishing school, which has been in operation a number of years, and has been productive of great good. There are two Schools between the Head of Lake Ontario and York—three in York—six in Young Street, north of York—seven between York and Kingston—and three in Kingston.—In Perth and several of the Townships between the St. Laurence and Ottawa River Sunday Schools are forming—at Hull and St. Andrews on the Ottawa, Sunday Schools have been in operation for several years. Besides the common exercises of the Sunday Schools in several of the above named places, a Bible Class is organized for the improvement of adults, and the most forward of the youth, with a view of leading them to the study and recitation of the Holy Scriptures.

A considerable effort has been made by friends to procure books for Sunday School Libraries, as this is thought to be much better than to give Prizes.—Upper Canada Union Societies, sent last year to the London Depository, through your Treasurer, upwards of fifty pounds to be vested in books, which has lately been forwarded to them, and it is expected from the efforts

made and now making, that more than that number will be sent this year.

And what is very gratifying, I have to state, that a number of Doreas Societies are formed and forming among the Ladies of the Upper Province, with a view of looking up and clothing poor children, to bring them to the Sabbath Schools and places of Worship, where they can be best accommodated, and where the parents and guardians wish them to attend.—It is most devoutly to be hoped, that, in every place, the Ladies will “go and do likewise.”

What an exhilarating picture does Great Britain present at the present day in the extending sphere of her moral and religious improvements. In connection with Ireland she numbers 7,173 Sunday Schools, 71,275 Teachers and 764,991 Scholars.

We cannot close this very imperfect Report without making a few remarks. No one, who looks around him can fail to observe the great want of more animated, vigorous and united exertions in rescuing the children of this Province from the allurements of error and the paths of vice. Depravity stalks around with its baleful influence and hundreds are annually falling victims at the shrine of their own vicious and depraved appetites.—Truth with an unerring finger, points to the cause of this great moral degradation—it is dated in early childhood, and strictly and justly ascribed to the want of early religious education. The mind when most susceptible of impressions, should receive the implantation of the important principles of Christianity—it should then be nourished with that food, which will impart to it a livening principle of good and an inspiring impulse in the performance of those things, which tend to our happiness here, and insure to us a blessed immortality beyond the grave. And where can we find an institution, that presents so many facilities for the attainment of this important object, as Sunday Schools.—They may strictly be termed the great nurseries of piety. The following borrowed observations and statement of facts are peculiarly applicable to our present purpose—

"In Sabbath Schools, are seen those, who shall be the future Missionaries of the Cross. In Great Britain, a great majority of the orthodox Ministers under 40 years of age, a still greater proportion of the Missionaries from that to other countries, and Dr. Morrison among them, who has lately translated the Bible into the millions of China, became pious in Sabbath Schools." That the same redeeming influence, which has been showered down so bountifully upon the Sabbath Schools of England, may not be withheld from the Sabbath Schools of this country is the fervent prayer of your

COMMITTEE.

The Sunday School Union Society of Canada in Account with the Treasurer.

To paid for Postage of Letters, Carriage of Boxes, &c.	£	s.	d.	By Balance of last Account,	£	s.	d.
" Printing Annual Reports &c. of the Society.	1	15	14	" Cash received for Sunday School Books sold at reduced prices,	26	2	6
" Duty on Books from London,	9	7	6	" Subscriptions and Donations collected in Town by Mr. Osgood.	32	5	8
" Spelling Books,	1	1	6	" Received from Sunday School Union in Kingston, to purchase S. S. Books in London for the Upper Provinces.	48	19	4
" Mr. A. Miller for Bill of Exchange on London for £13 16 0 Sterling at 10 per cent premium.	1	16	8	" Dr. in York for Sunday School Books, Collection made at the Second Anniversary Meeting.	50	0	0
" Mr. G. Proctor for Bill of Exchange, payable in London, for £74 2 10 Sterl. at 5 per cent premium.	16	17	4		25	0	0
" Mr. G. Williams's expenses in the Eastern Townships to promote the object of the Society.	86	9	11		3	4	5
" Purchase of children's Books from the M. A. R. T. Society,	1	4	3				
" Balance in favour of the Society.	2	10	0				
	64	9	8				
	£185	11	11		£185	11	11

Montreal 13th Jan. 1824.

W. LUNN.
Secretary.

HINTS
ON THE
ESTABLISHMENT AND REGULATION
OF
SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

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IT is most desirable that Societies should be instituted, and Committees formed, for the support and management of the Schools; not only on account of the expense, which becomes light by being divided among many, but because more good in various ways may be expected to result from the united exertions than from individual efforts. The institution will also obtain greater publicity, and many who would otherwise have regarded it with indifference, will feel a peculiar interest in its welfare when personally engaged in contributing to its support. The Committee should consist of a Treasurer, a Secretary, and about twelve Members, (half of whom should be regular Teachers;) to be elected annually at a general meeting of the Subscribers.

At the first admission of each child, it is highly expedient to enjoin the attendance of at least one of the parents: this will afford the superintendent or teacher, an opportunity of pointing out to them the importance of sending their children regularly and in good time, and also of giving them any suitable advice.*

RULES.

1. *The hours of attendance are to be made known by the Secretary.—As it is a rule that the school should be opened and concluded with prayer, it is necessary that the children should be all present at the school in good time.*
2. *Any children being absent from school unless by the reasonable desire of their parents, (of which notice must be given), or by permission of their teachers, will be liable to reproof; and if absent three successive Sundays, without a satisfactory cause, will subject themselves to be dismissed the school.*
3. *Every child who does not come to school clean and decent, or*

* The Tract for Parents, published by the Sunday School Union, will be an acceptable and useful present on these occasions.

found guilty of lying, swearing, stealing, fighting or otherwise misbehaving, must be expelled, if after repeated reproof there is no reformation.

4. No book belonging to the institution shall be taken away from the school without permission.

5. It is earnestly recommended to the parents or friends of the children to set them proper examples, and to urge them to attend to their own improvement; thus to second the wishes and exertions of the teachers, who cannot hope for much in their voluntary labours, if the children behold at home an indifference to their welfare, or an example contrary to the instruction given at school,

6. Once or twice in a year the parents or friends of the children in this school will be requested to meet the teachers, of which due notice will be given.

Place of Meeting.

THE premises used for this purpose should be in as central a situation as possible; and should be light, airy, and spacious.

Hours of Attendance.

The time to be occupied in the School must be regulated by the periods fixed for attendance on public worship. Where the number of children is so large, they cannot be conveniently accommodated in the place of worship, the whole of the forenoon may be devoted to the purposes of tuition and religious instruction in the School-room; or a certain number of classes taken every Sunday morning in rotation. It appears desirable that each child should attend public worship at least once every Lord's Day. Where there is no public service in the afternoon, the whole of that time may be employed in the work of tuition. An hour and a half, or two hours before worship in the morning, may be spent in the same way. In the evening, the children may be taken to the public lecture if any; or it may be found the most profitable to devote the whole of that time to religious instruction; such as examining the children on the subjects which have been discussed in public; hearing them repeat their hymns, catechisms, &c. and giving them a word of exhortation. This exercise should not exceed two hours, lest the children being wearied with close confinement, religious duties should be made a burden, which would defeat the design of the institution. It need hardly be added, that on every occasion the school should be opened and concluded with prayer: and where the children cannot be taken to public worship, prayer, singing, and a short religious address suited to the young, should never be omitted.

Business of the Schools.

It is advisable that there should be an established order of proceeding in the employments of the day, that the children may not be at a loss how to proceed, in case the teacher should at any time be unavoidably detained after the usual hour of beginning School. It is hoped,

However, that he will not permit any thing which may not strictly be considered as unavoidable to prevent his being in time, as punctuality is of the greatest importance not only to the discipline of the School and progress of the scholars, but to the habits, in other respects, of the children, and consequently to a great extent, of their parents.

To obviate every objection which might otherwise be made to Sunday Schools, as incompatible with the duties of the Lord's Day, the exercises of the scholars on that day should be restricted to reading and spelling, and to learning and repeating catechisms, hymns, portions of Scripture, &c.

In hearing children read or repeat what they have learned, much care should be taken to make them acquainted with the *meaning*; that they may understand the sense as well as retain the sound of what they repeat. Spelling and reading are important, as they are the first steps to knowledge: but words are valuable only as they are connected with ideas; it should therefore be the aim of the teacher to impress upon the minds of the children, the sentiments contained in their lessons. To this end, the catechism which first engages their attention, should be of the initiatory kind; and after a child has been once through the catechism, it may be proper to require him, on a repetition of it, to give the answer to each question in his own words; which may be done by varying the question. This has been found by experience a very profitable method of instruction, as it exercises the *judgment* as well as the *memory*, and tends more deeply to impress the mind with the importance of the subject. Children taught on this plan, have obtained more religious knowledge in half a year, than is usually acquired in the space of two or three years.

The lessons, particularly in the Bible and Testament, should be of moderate length, so that the children may be able to retain the ideas: the teacher questioning them upon the contents of the chapter or other lessons, as soon as they have read it, will be found highly useful. The children might also be exercised in spelling words selected from the lessons they have read.

When the School closes let the girls be dismissed first, that they may go home quietly and without interruption; then, after a short interval, let the boys be dismissed, each class separately, beginning with the lowest, that good order and decorum may be preserved, and noise and tumult prevented. Let one teacher take his situation in the street, to keep the children divided as much as possible, and to prevent noise and confusion. The rest of the teachers should remain in their classes to preserve order, till every child has left the school.

Rewards and Punishment.

Corporeal punishment is so unsuited to the Lord's day, and to the institution itself, that it should be entirely avoided. Chastisement in a place of worship, and during the service is absolutely intolerable.—Persuasion, moderate confinement and fear of shame are preferable modes of punishment; but the withholding of those rewards which are generally given to the deserving, or depriving them of the privilege of

Access to the Library, will be found the best way of punishing the idle and refractory. At the same time it should be observed, that rewards, though they form a part of the system of many schools, are not indispensably requisite: on the contrary, in many of the larger schools they are not given. If, however, it be thought advisable on the opening of a new School, to make use of such a stimulus, it should be done sparingly and cautiously, that the loss may not be severely felt, should it afterwards be thought prudent to withhold them.

Perhaps the best criterion for the distribution of rewards, &c. is the early and regular attendance of the scholars; taking into account their *general conduct and behaviour*. This in some schools is done *quarterly*.

Teachers.

We feel no hesitation in recommending the plan of instruction by *gratuitous teachers*, the superior advantages of which have been fully proved by experience. But let it be observed, that those who voluntarily engage in that work and labour of love, should consider themselves as bound by a solemn engagement to a diligent and punctual attendance; the want of which will occasion very serious inconvenience to the School which they profess to serve.

It will be evident to those who duly consider the subject, that frequent changes in the mode of instruction must be detrimental to the improvement of the children, and prevent their progress being properly ascertained; it is therefore of importance, that teachers should be procured, who will devote a considerable portion of their time to the work, not merely as a matter of *convenience* because the sabbath is rather a leisure day, but as a matter of *conscience*, under a due consideration of the great importance of their engagements.

When a sufficient number of teachers cannot be obtained, that deficiency may be supplied in some measure from among the scholars themselves: let a selection be made of those who are most advanced in learning, and who are equally remarkable for their orderly conduct and good behaviour; for too much attention cannot be paid to the latter qualifications. Let these youth be employed by instructing the lower classes under the direction and vigilant oversight of the superintendent or teachers.—These assistants in a large school may after due trial be formed into a seventh class, which will add another step of promotion, and excite emulation in the higher classes.

The children should invariably be instructed by persons of their own-sex.

It will be found highly beneficial that the teachers should, in the course of the week, inquire of the parents the cause of the absence of such of the scholars as were not present at the School on the preceding Sunday; but when this cannot be done by the teachers, a visitor should be appointed for the purpose, who should make his report weekly to the secretary.

It must be obvious to every thinking mind, that the existence of a Sunday School depends materially upon diligent attendance and punctuality; for so long as the teachers respect their engagements, it will con-

time and prosper; and in proportion as they decline, it will also decay. This is plain to any one who considers the subject.—If there be no teacher to instruct, it cannot be expected there will long be scholars; If there be nobody to attend the children to public worship, they cannot go; for here it should be considered, are not hirelings to supply deficiencies. Let every one who neglects to attend in his place, carefully consider these few things. 1. By so doing he has betrayed the trust reposed in him. 2. He has deranged the order of the School. 3. He has deprived a portion of the children of the instruction which they should have had. 4. He has set an example to his fellow-labourers in the same work, which, if followed must completely overturn the institution, and, with that, all its good effects. Let no one say, "Surely I may stay away, they can do without one;—one can make no great difference." Rather let him blush if he has indulged a thought so ungenerous, as that of throwing the weight of his labour upon another, who has no more interest in the matter than himself.

The welfare of the School may be said with truth, to depend more upon *punctuality of the teacher to his appointments than upon his abilities*; for by regular attendance a person will soon become qualified to fill the place allotted him, while neglect renders the more able almost useless. It may therefore be confidently affirmed, that in a teacher of such a School as this, punctuality is more than talents; for with the first, things will go on; but with the last alone, they cannot proceed.

The evil which the *late* attendance of teachers is productive of, might also be mentioned; and that not only as it respects the example set before the children, together with the large proportion of their precious time by this means lost; but as it necessarily prevents teachers from calling their scholars to account for a fault of which they themselves are guilty.

It is highly desirable to procure serious persons, if possible, as teachers; and all of them should at least be amiable moral characters. The teachers of the higher classes should be decided characters.—Those who have been called by Divine grace in early life will, in general be found best qualified for addressing young people on the concerns of their souls; they feel peculiarly interested in youth, and the ardour of their own feelings leads them to engage in the service with delight and energy.

A competent knowledge of the scriptures—a capability of teaching in a manner adapted to the capacities of children—and an ardent affection for young immortals—are indispensable in Sunday School Teachers. They should display a combination of gentleness with firmness—condescension with dignity—and simplicity with sagacity: they should be "wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." Constantly depending on the Divine blessing, and diligent in the use of all the means in their power, they will not fail to receive the blessing of Almighty God on their labours; he will teach them how to impart instruction, and while they water others they shall be watered themselves.

Superintendent and Secretary.

In all such Schools it will become necessary that some one person who may be most qualified by knowledge, prudence and age, should be appointed to superintend and direct the concerns of the school, and to have the entire charge of the Books, &c.

The superintendent, or a teacher at his desire, should begin and conclude the School with singing and prayer, and give such general advice or reproof to the children collectively, as circumstances may require. The superintendent should then admit such children as are waiting to be received into the School; entering their names, ages, parents or guardian's names and places of residence, in the receiving-book; at the same time speaking to the parents on the privilege of admission, the necessity of sending their children regularly, and in time; and giving them suitable advice respecting their own eternal interests, and the importance of setting their children a proper example. The superintendent should then ascertain what progress the children have already made; class them accordingly and enter their names in the roll-book. He should afterwards visit the several classes, to see whether they are properly supplied with teachers, and in case of a deficiency, make such an arrangement of those present, as may be best under existing circumstances; calling in, if occasion require, the aid of some of the senior scholars as assistant teachers. He should at the same time mark the attendance of the teachers in a book kept for that purpose, which he should carry round with him. He will after this have time to examine such scholars as are sent to him for removal into higher classes, and if he finds them qualified, he should insert the removal in the roll-book.*

Before the conclusion of the School, the superintendent should again visit all the classes, taking with him the roll-book, and marking off the attendance of the children from the class-books. He will then have an opportunity, in addition to the reproof of the teachers, of reprimanding those scholars who have come late, and of inquiring the occasion of such as have lately absented themselves. He should also employ his leisure moments in making the proper minutes in the book kept for that purpose, which should be laid before the Committee at their meetings.

Library.

The establishment of a Library, consisting of religious and moral books, to which the scholars may have access (agreeable to rules which may be made for its regulation†) will be found a great inducement to

*These books may be furnished at the Depository of the Sunday School Union Society of Canada, in Montreal.

† The following rules have been observed in some Schools.

1. The Library being formed for the visitors, teachers and scholars belonging to this institution, no other persons can be admitted to the privilege thereof, except those who are donors of books.
2. Any scholars having been admitted six months and able to read the Testa-

the regular attendance and diligent application of the children; and will also, by increasing their knowledge, promote the immediate design of the School. The propriety of a measure like this, which furnishes the children with books on the most improving subjects, for the exercise of that talent of reading which they have acquired, will sufficiently appear to every one. It may however be proper to remark, that its great utility has been experienced in respect to the parents as well as the children, in several Schools, where the experiment has been tried. The privilege of the Library is frequently continued to the children after they have left School. This keeps them still, in some measure, under the view of their instructors; furnishes employment for that leisure which would otherwise expose them to temptation, and appears calculated to influence their conduct in future life, and become a blessing to their descendants.

A small fund is usually appropriated to the purchase of books; and public notice is given, that if any friends are disposed to present books for the circulating Library, they will be thankfully received. A sub-committee of two or three individuals should be appointed to examine all books before they are circulated, to see that they are suitable for the purpose. All the books should be well covered with strong cartridge paper.

A complete list of the books in the library, regularly numbered, should be placed in a conspicuous situation in the school room. A number should be marked on each book to correspond with the number in the list, and the books should be placed in the library according to the numbers. The name of the school to which the book belongs, should be placed in the library according to their numbers. The name of the school to which the book belongs, should also be stamped on it or written in it.

In concluding a few short hints to teachers, founded on experience, will be given, leaving it with the readers to enlarge on the miscellaneous ideas suggested.

ment, who attend regularly and behave well—upon obtaining a recommendation from their teachers, shall be admitted to the privileges of the Library.

3. If any scholars admitted to the library, shall commit any fault deserving of such punishment, they shall be deprived of their privilege for a limited time, or entirely, as the Committee (or Librarian) shall judge most proper.

4. Any persons having been scholars in this School, and honorably discharged therefrom, shall be entitled to the privilege of the Library, so long as they shall manifest a conduct suitable to the instructions which they have received.

5. All persons having books out of the library must return them in fourteen days, or bring them to be re-entered. If they neglect this, they shall be liable to be deprived of their privilege.

6 The time of attendance for the purpose of changing and re-entering the books, shall be from _____ to _____

* * As it is the particular desire of those who have established this Library, that parents and families of the children may be benefitted thereby; the Committee expect that the children who have had the privilege of being taught to read in these Schools, and now of having books from the Library, in order that their parents and friends may be brought to a true knowledge of God as the chief good, will embrace every proper opportunity to read these books to them; and the Committee recommend them to read the same with serious consideration, and a spirit of prayer to the Father of Lights, that they may be guided into all truth.

Let all your instructions have some reference to religious improvement.—Labour to cultivate the *understanding*, more than to load the *memory*.—Weekly scriptural subjects, asking questions, and encouraging the children also to ask them, requiring an account of the sermons and addresses heard, and the books read, are each calculated to improve the understanding.—Constantly and privately enforce the necessity of prayer.—Make every service *interesting* to youthful minds.—Be short in your prayers and addresses; where weariness begins devotion ends.—Visit the parents and children at home, induce them to love and respect you as their best friends.—Gain a knowledge of the conduct and chosen companions of your pupils when they are under your care. Speak as occasion admits to each child individually; many opportunities occur *general* exhortation, but these are not so apt to be applied by the hearers to *themselves*. See that all your behaviour is such as you would wish your pupils to imitate. Labour, teach, pray, as those who must give an account before the judgment seat of Christ. Yours is an important work—upon you, as instruments, the prosperity of the school entirely depends.

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RULES OF THE [Here insert the Name] BRANCH UNION, CONNECTED WITH THE SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION SOCIETY OF CANADA.

1. THAT the design of this Branch Union be *to assist in carrying into effect* the objects of the Sunday School Union Society of Canada.
2. That the *Boundaries* of this branch Union be [Here specify the Boundaries.]
3. That an *annual return* of the numbers of Teachers, children and adults, together with a brief statement of interesting facts from each school within our limits, shall constitute the Minister patronising it and all the teachers, members of this branch Union.
4. That this Branch Union be under the direction of a committee, of a treasurer, one Secretary, and two Representatives returned annually from each Sunday and Adult School connected with it, to meet at such time and place as they may appoint, and that three be competent to transact business.
5. That the committee of this Branch Union, shall transmit *Annually* in the month Novr. to the committee of the Sunday School Union Society of Canada, an account of the number of Schools, Teachers and Adults, and other facts that are interesting to communicate.
- * 6. That such advantages as may be derived from our connexion with the S. School Union Society of Canada shall come through the committee of this branch Union to the several schools within this district, and that all communications shall pass through the same medium.
7. That a *Quarterly General Meeting* be held of the teachers, subscribers, and friends of this branch Union, for the purpose of prayer and praise. Also for friendly conversation on the subjects connected with the important work of Sunday School teaching. And that an *annual General meeting* be held on _____ to receive the report of the committee, and elect the treasurer and secretary for the year ensuing.
8. That the children of the schools connected with this Branch Union, be assembled annually on _____ in public worship within this district, when an address shall be delivered by a minister invited by the committee.
9. That all meetings of this branch Union shall be open to the committee of the Sunday School Union Society of Canada.
10. That each individual *subscribing* not less than 2s. 6d. per annum shall be a member of this branch Union, and a donation of two pounds shall constitute the giver a member for life.
11. That all meetings of this branch Union, shall begin and end with prayers.
- * Each branch Union connected with the Sunday School Union Society of Canada, has the privilege of purchasing books out of the Depository, at the London School Society's, for sale.